

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02627 151021Z
ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 /084 W

-----151121Z 009603 /10

R 150917Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8015
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2627

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MASS, KU, UK, FR
SUBJECT: KUWAITI DEFMIN TO VISIT UK

REF: KUWAIT 2500

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPORTED (AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS
CONFIRMED TO US) THAT KUWAIT DEFMIN, SHAIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLA,
WILL VISIT UK MAY 23-27. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL ACCOMPANY
DEFMIN ON HIS TOUR, WHICH WILL INCLUDE A DAY IN LONDON WITH
"MINISTERS" AND THEN A TOUR OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS, IN-
CLUDING AN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER, A NAVAL
BASE, AND A TANK MAINTENANCE FACILITY. THE PRESS ALSO
INDICATES THAT THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE HAS RENEWED HIS
OWN DEFMIN'S INVITATION TO KUWAITI DEFMIN TO VISIT
FRANCE. FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS BUT SAID
RATHER WISTFULLY THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT THE FRENCH
INVITATION HAD BEEN ACCEPTED.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02627 151021Z

2. COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT DEFMIN'S VISIT TO UK WILL BE
RELATED IN PART TO THE GOK'S REPORTED INTEREST IN
PURCHASING TEN BRITISH PATROL CRAFT (REFTEL) AND IN ITS
GROWING INTEREST IN A NATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY.
FUTURE PROCUREMENT PLANS ARE BEING HELD CLOSE TO THE VEST,
HOWEVER, AND LAST WEEK THE DEFMIN CITED "NATIONAL SECURITY"
WHEN HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS SUCH PLANS WITH THE PRESS. WE NOTE

THAT NEW PROCUREMENT SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR, FROM THE
CURRENT \$3.2 BILLION MULTI-YEAR DEFENSE PROCUREMENT
BUDGET, HAS CONCENTRATED LARGELY ON CONSTRUCTION (A NAVY
BASE TO BE BUILT BY THE JAPANESE AND VARIOUS PROJECTS TO BE
UNDERTAKEN BY THE YUGOSLAVS), BUT THE GOK REPORTEDLY HAS
DECIDED TO BUY SOVIET (STRELLA AND FROG) AND FRENCH (HOT)
TACTICAL MISSILES. THE PATROL CRAFT PURCHASE WOULD BE BY
FAR THE LARGEST HARDWARE DEAL CONSUMMATED FOR OVER A YEAR.
IN ADDITION, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE MAY BE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING FROM THE UK A GOOD
DEAL OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, WHICH THE BRITISH HAVE
BEEN PUSHING HARD, EVEN IN ADVANCE OF NECESSARY PLANNING
FOR A NATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEM.
MAESTRONE

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